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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

~~INTELLIGENCE REPORT~~

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE 25X1A6a

INFO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT Forestry, Agriculture, Livestock
in ThuringiaDIST. ²³ ~~≡~~ October 1947

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SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN [REDACTED]

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1. On 24 July 1947, Minister Georg Grosse of the Ministry of Supply of the state of Thuringia reported to the state legislature on the problems and difficulties confronting this ministry in the various fields of the economy with which it is concerned. The first question discussed by Minister Grosse was that of the Thuringian forests. In this connection, he stated that the Thuringian forest reserves are almost completely exhausted; nevertheless, the quota of wood to be cut during 1947 is four million three hundred thousand cubic meters, three times the normal yearly amount. Great efforts will be required to obtain the workers, supplies, and transportation which will be necessary in order to fill this quota. The most dangerous part of the situation lies in the fact that, in spite of the disastrous size of the quota, even the most pressing needs for wood will not be met; exceedingly small amounts of timber for purposes of reconstruction are on hand. Because of the acute shortage of fuel for the civilian population during the coming winter, the state government was forced to order that one million five hundred thousand cubic meters of wood be cut in addition to the four million three hundred thousand cubic meters mentioned above. At the same time, numerous obstacles have opposed the introduction of extremely necessary reforestation measures. There is a shortage of seed and of trained workers to attend to the cultivation of the young trees. Minister Grosse proposed that the following steps be taken by the government to prevent further depletion of the forests:

- After the end of 1947 there must be a reduction in the amount of wood cut.
- Trees may be felled only in those areas where there is adequate transportation to provide for their immediate removal and disposition.
- Sufficient scientifically trained personnel must be made available.
- Seed must be selected for purposes of reforestation.

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2. Minister Grosse next spoke on the subject of agriculture, in which branch of the economy a critical situation has prevailed because of the shortages of workers, seed, and fertilizers. Spring plantings began late because of the unruly long and hard winter. The shortage of seed constituted the greatest problem; since the Ministry of Supply has no control over the supplies of grain which have been collected, it was unable to make grants of seed grain from its stores. Through the personal efforts of General Kolesnichenko, a loan of sixteen thousand five hundred tons of grain and forty-two thousand tons of seed potatoes was obtained. Minister Grosse expressed the hope that the harvest of these items would at least equal that of the past year. A vegetable shortage is to be anticipated during the coming winter months, and it is felt that the amount of land used in the cultivation of vegetables must be increased. Thuringia still possesses a relatively large amount of livestock, as compared with other parts of the Russian Zone. This is indicated by the following table, which shows the figures for 1938 and for June 1947:

	<u>1938</u>	<u>June 1947</u>
Horses	93,800	77,700
Cattle	587,000	567,000
Hogs	918,000	434,000
Sheep	78,000	187,000
Goats	248,000	356,000

The main problem in this connection is the provision of sufficient fodder, and it may become necessary to reduce the livestock in order to conserve grain for human consumption. Minister Grosse stated that the following measures should be taken to improve the agricultural situation:

- a. A production plan should be drafted which is based on the production of the individual farm.
- b. A unified agricultural policy must be established.
- c. Preparations must be made to increase the supply of artificial fertilizers during the coming year.
- d. The farmers must be allowed to retain certain amounts of their produce to be used as seed. This would solve many problems of storage, transportation, and supply.
- e. No more agricultural products and seed must be borrowed, since this has a demoralizing effect on the farmers. The following amounts are already owed and will make substantial inroads into this year's harvest:

Grain	31,000 tons
Potatoes	56,000 tons
Linseed	500 tons

3. A large section of Minister Grosse's report dealt with the functions of the Office for Commerce and Supply, which is subordinate to the Ministry of Supply. These functions consist of the collection of all agricultural products, supervision of their handling and processing, just distribution of agricultural products to the population, supply of the population with consumers' goods, and the supervision of trade and of cooperative societies. Insofar as the collection of agricultural products is concerned, a quota was set by the occupation authorities. This system of planned collection was completely new to German government agencies and officials, and there were difficulties because of a lack of statistical

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- a. The quarterly plans used heretofore must be replaced by a yearly plan.
- b. Collections should be made on the basis of actual amounts produced, not on the basis of the quota set by the production plan.
- c. In order that the plans may be carried out with exactitude, reserves must be reckoned on, and no demands must be made which are not included in the plan.
- d. Production, especially of butter, must be increased.
- e. Goods produced in addition to the production quota must be distributed by especially designated firms and not by producers on the open market.

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